## Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A second reason for limited success in exemplar-based classification is that images often contain excessive or distracting foreground regions, which cause the scene to look less prototypical and thus not match any of the training exemplars well. For example, Figure 1 shows four scenes (a)-(d) with distracting foreground regions. This is especially true in consumer images, where the typical consumer pays less attention to composition and lighting than would a professional photographer. Therefore, consumer images contain greater variability, causing the high performance (on professionally-taken stock photo libraries ~~such as the Corel database~~) of many existing systems to decline when used in this domain.--
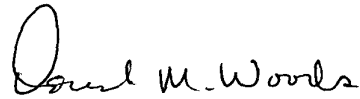
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The above system is extended to distinguish between six types of outdoor scenes: beach, sunset, fall foliage, field, mountain, and urban (defined in Table 2). The images used for training and testing included ~~Corel~~ professional and consumer images. The same features and classifier are used as for the sunset detector, although the SVM classifier was extended to multiple classes by using a one-vs.-all approach (see B. Scholkopf, C. Burges, and A. Smola. Advances in Kernel Methods: Support Vector Learning. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1999, pp 256-258). Spatial recomposition was especially effective when used in training, since the training set was still limited. Recomposition was not used on the testing set.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Sample ~~Corel~~ images that were gained by using the recomposition scheme are shown in Figure 8. In each of these cases, some region on the border of the image is distracting. The dark shadows (FIG 8(c)), the dark trees (FIG. 8(b)), and the reflection of the sun (FIG. 8(c)) all confused the classifier; bright or dark regions appear at the side of an image, not at the top or bottom.--

Respectfully submitted,

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